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(57) Abstract: The invention provides methods and associated compositions for enhancing the intracellular delivery of a nucleic acid-based drug, such as an oligonucleotide or gene, by administering the nucleic acid-based drug in combination or sequentially with an enhancer. Preferred enhancers are caprylic acid, capric acid or their pharmaccutically acceptable salts. The preferred route of administration is oral.

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a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 A61K47/12 A61K A61K47/14 A61K47/44 A61K48/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) WPI Data, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. χ EP 0 890 362 A (TRANSGENE S.A., FR) 1,2, 13 January 1999 (1999-01-13) 13-17, 19,20, 23, 26-28, 31,32 claims page 5, line 14 - line 23 page 5, line 45 -page 6, line 2 page 8, line 9 - line 16 X WO 99 01579 A (ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS 1-18, INC., U.S.A.) 14 January 1999 (1999-01-14) 20-26, cited in the application 31 - 37claims page 10, line 17 - line 31 page 29, line 30 -page 30, line 30 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another * document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 9 November 2000 15/11/2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL = 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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